ncceiSary ste^s to sa'cjuard India's security and na!ional interest.

Area Occupied by China

2493. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PI be pleased *o state:

(a) the total area of Indb, jn square kilometres, illegally occupied by China, State-wise and Sector.wise;

(b) whether Minsar village of Lad-d ;kh in Jammu anj Kashmir, wi!h sizeable popu'alion, is situated well inside Western Tibet, on the Northern or North-we | . bo'.y i. Parvat;

(c) Jf so, whether Government have raised the issue of Minsar village with thwr Oums- coin: mar-s in thfir several rounds of ta'ks held in the past; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY (EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRi SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) The area under occupation by China in Jammu & Kashmir is approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan boundary agree, men:' of 1953, Pakistan illegally ceded approximate] | kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

fb) and ic~i During the India-China Officials level la'ks on the Boundary ioa in I960. Minsar vilbec «fl referred to by the two sides. The loca tion of tti' en described matery 200 kms. from I ikh and on the route to Maataro-var.

(d) Docs no: arise.

Arranjcmcnts for Ind'sn Community in llnr.g Ronff

2494. SHRIMATI URMILABENCHIMAN BHAI PATEL:Will the PRIME MINISTER he pleased to state**:**

la) »he"her Government have asses-- Indian population, particularly 'ti community in Hong Kong;

(b) whether there is restlessness on the part of Indian community there, after handing over of Hong Kong lo Chinese Government on 1st July, 1997; and

(c) jf so, what arrangements Govern-ment bave made for lhe Indian commu-nity, in consultation with the Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINiSim OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): According to the information available with lhe Government, Ihere are appro-Indian origin resident in Hong Kong, of which aoout 22,000 are Indian passport hol-ders; the remaining hold British or third country documents. According to thL, information available with thj Con- suiate General of India, Hong Kong, ihe.e arc 'ely 1000 pet Gujaraii crigjn in Hong Km.; of whom about 600 are permanent residents.

(b) and (c) Government ha» not come acros reports of any par:icular sense of restlessness in the Indian community in Hong Kort; ;o!]owing the resumption of sovereignly by China July 1, 1997.

The Chinese and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) authorities have expressed appreciation of tho contribution o' ihc InJi; n .immunity to Hong Kong's economic development and its fodal and cultural life. The ChVf rxeoutiwj Officer off "•» HKSxR. Mr Tung Cbee-Hwa. has assured Government that the Indian community would coa!inue to he welcoaae in Hong Koruj

Sino-Indian Protasts against US vjodation of CTBT

2495. SHRI MATI VEENA VERMA

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAM-BHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be plowed to slat*:

(a) whether Ormwrnment's »tt«niicw was drawn to the Chinese protect aaio*****

violation of CTBT by the United States, by what is called the sub-critical N-test conducted recently; if so, the terras of their protest; and

(b) whether Government have also protested! agajttstj the US sub-crititoal Test; if so, in what terms and the US reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS tSHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir, China has noted that it is closely watching the US decision to conduct a series of underground tests. It also stressed that all countries should faithfully abide by stipulations in the nuclear test ban treaty.

(b)In a press statement on July 5, 1997$_5$ Government took note of the "sub-critjcal" test conducted by th$_e$ United States on July 2, 1997 and expressed ctoncem that the sub-flritical nuclear test has been justified "as an activity (permitted under the CTBT". India has been consistently pointing out that the CTBT in its present form contains lcbp-holes and without bejng placed in the context of a phased iprogramme far global nuclear disarmament serves only a discriminatory non. proliferation intent rather than the urgent goal of global nuclear disarmament. The US Administration has not reached to India's statement.

Proposal to Accept LOC as International Boundary

2496. SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH: Will th$_e$ PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are consi dering any proposal to accept LOC as International boundary along Pakistan India border on the North.West; and

(b) if so its logic and justification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS tSHRI SALEEM 1QBAL SHERWAN1): ta) No, Sir.

LtH—ry^a.i not irnn

Facilities to stranded Afghan Sikh Families

2497. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware thai about 200 Afghan Sikh families are stranded in Peshawar for the last three months, after fleeing from war-torn Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether any facilities haw been provided, on humanitarian grounds, to these stranded families by Indian High Commission in Pakistan;

(c) whether Governmc.U have initiat ed any action for their repatriation to ladia; and

(A) if so, what are the details thereof!

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAIEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) to (d) Our High Commission in Islamabad is not aware of 200 Sit! families stranded in Peshawar, Pakistan. However, 205 Afghan Sikhs of whtch ITS are currently staying in

श्रीलंका सरकार के व्यक्तियों द्वारा भारतीय नाविकों की हत्या किया जाना

2498. **श्री राघवजी** : क्या **प्रधान** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पिछले कुछ महीनों में श्रीलंका सरकार के व्यक्तियों द्वारा बहुत से भारतीय मछुआरे और नाविक मारे गए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत 1 अप्रैल, 1996 से ऐसे कितने लोग मारे गए हैं और कितने घायल हुए हैं; और

Jalalabad, Afghhanistan and remaining in PaW^{s}t^{M} requested for grant of visa to visit India. All the'se requests, barring eight which are still under process, have been cleared for issue of visa. 15 perrons ha^{1}™ have obtained their visas so far. The remaining 182 persons will be issued visas, on application, by the Indian High Commission in Islamabad,